CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A system to facilitate safe operation of a vehicle, comprising:

 a vapor sensor operative to detect fumes within an associated

 compartment;

a blower operatively associated with the compartment to facilitate venting gas therefrom; and

a controller that controls the blower based on the amount of vapor fumes detected by the vapor sensor.

- 2. The system of claim 1, the controller provides a control signal to one of enable and disable an associated engine based on the amount of vapor fumes detected by the vapor sensor.
- 3. The system of claim 2, the controller maintains operation of the vapor sensor for a predetermined period of time after an associated ignition has been turned off to enable control of the blower during the predetermined period of time after the associated ignition has been turned off based on the amount of vapor fumes detected by the vapor sensor.
- A method to control starting a marine vehicle, comprising:
 activating a timer in response to an ignition switch being turned off;

sensing fumes within a compartment of the marine vehicle; and controlling ignition of the vehicle based on the sensing of fumes and the timer.

- 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising controlling a blower to exhaust at least some of the fumes from the compartment of the marine vehicle based on the sensing of vapors and based on the condition of the ignition switch.
- 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising enabling operation of the blower and the sensing of fumes for a predetermined duration provided by the activated timer.
- 7. A system to facilitate venting fumes from an engine compartment of a marine vehicle, comprising:

means for activating a timer in response to an ignition switch being turned off;

means for sensing fumes within a compartment of the marine vehicle; and means for controlling a blower to exhaust at least some of the fumes from the compartment of the marine vehicle based on the sensing of vapors and based on the the timer.